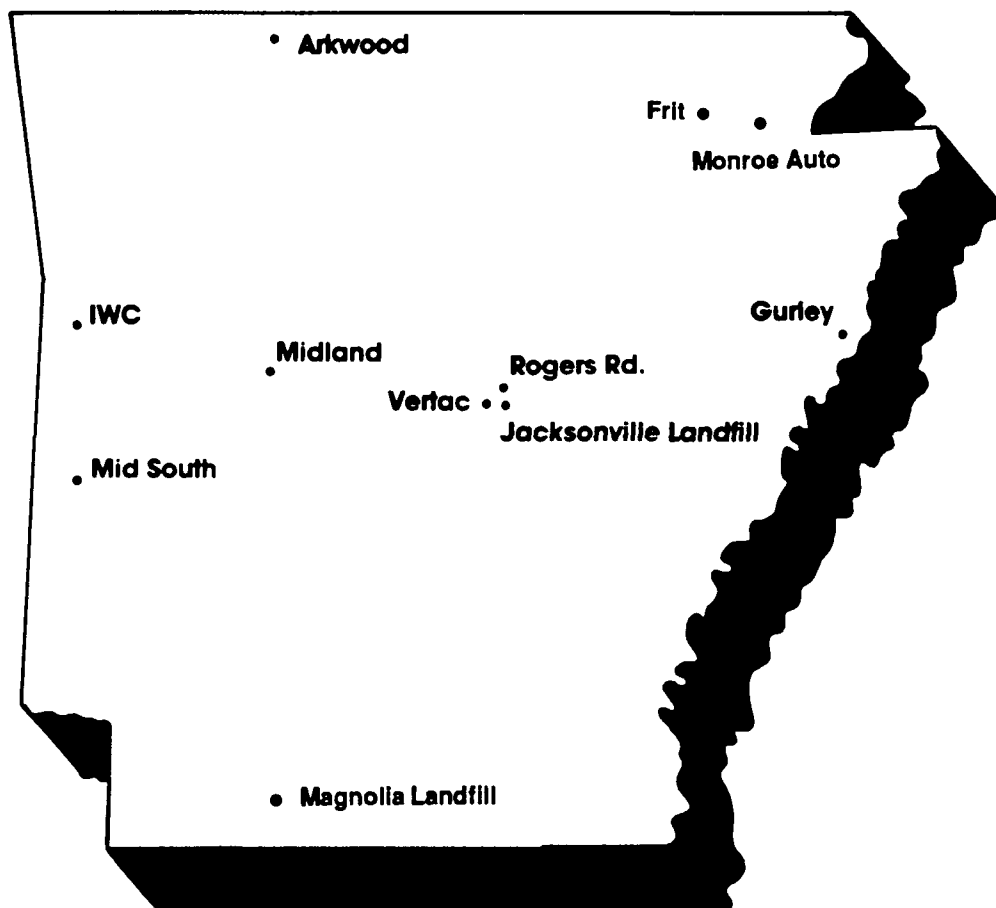




November 1989

Quarterly Status Report of Superfund Sites



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INTRODUCTION

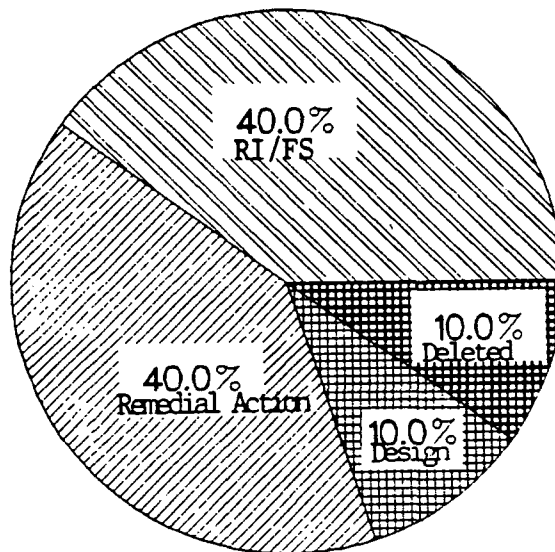
Superfund is the common term for the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) as amended in 1986, the federal law that provides remedies for abandoned hazardous waste sites. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency administers and enforces CERCLA in Arkansas, in consultation with the Arkansas Department of Pollution Control and Ecology.

This report includes a brief description and the current status of the Superfund sites in Arkansas. EPA published this report to keep you informed of the activities and decisions affecting these sites. However, it does not replace the site-specific fact sheets that are published throughout the life of a Superfund site.

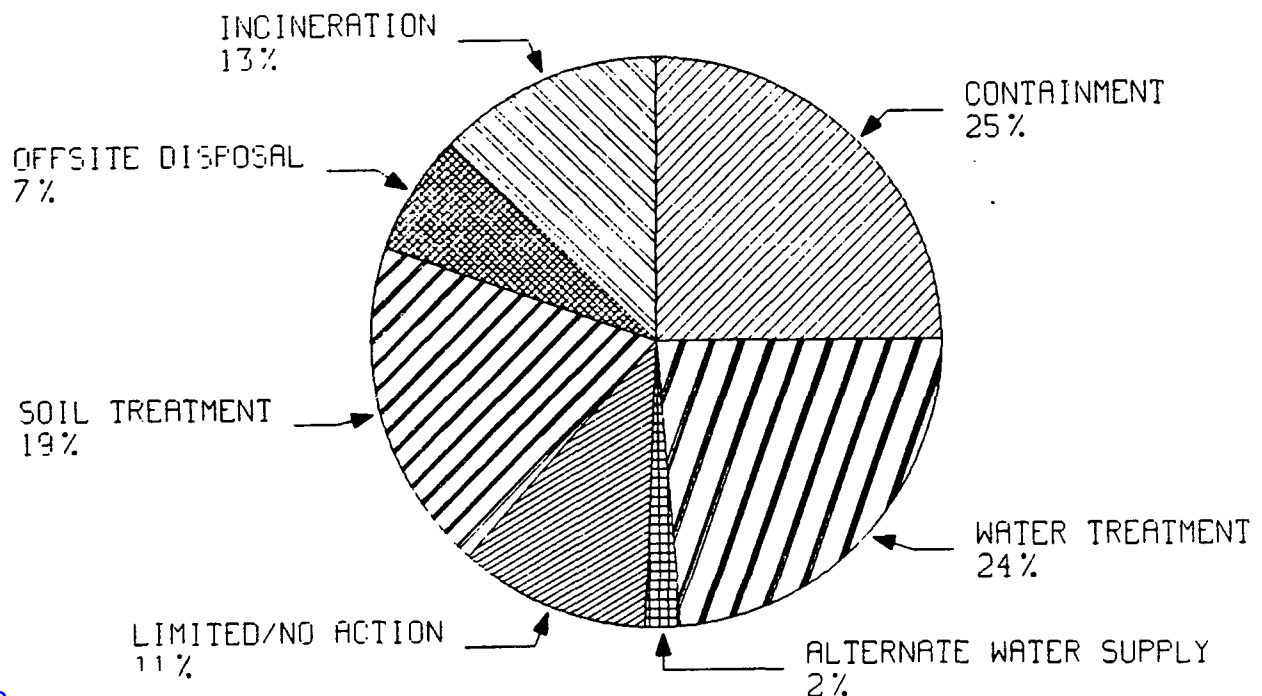
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The State of Arkansas currently has 11 sites (proposed or final) on EPA's National Priorities List of hazardous waste sites. One site (Cecil Lindsey Dump in Newport) was deleted in September and two sites (Magnolia City Landfill and Monroe Auto Pit) were proposed for addition to the list in October.

Overall, the Superfund program in Arkansas is progressing quite well. As the chart indicates, a significant percentage of the sites are in the final stages of the Superfund process. The two new sites were not included in these statistics.

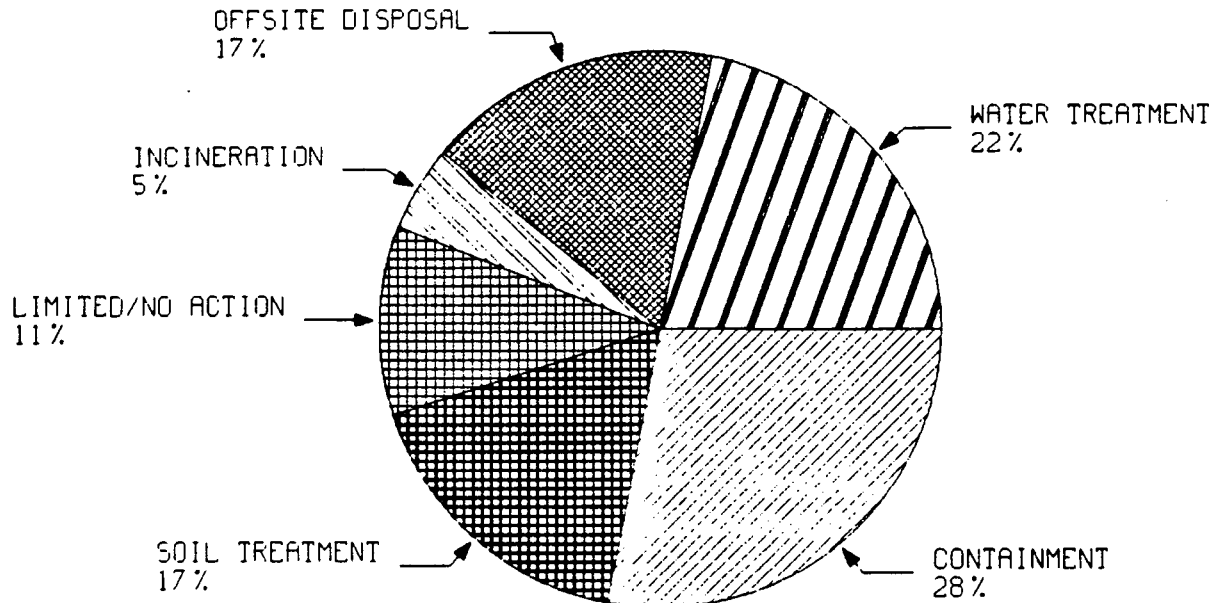


As of September 30, 1989, EPA Region 6 had selected 85 long-term remedies for the 74 sites included in our region. These remedies represent a concerted effort to protect the public's health and the surrounding environment. The following chart depicts these remedies by category:



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A significant portion of our effort has been conducted in the State of Arkansas, with 18 actions.



SITE STATUS

ARKWOOD near Omaha, Boone County: It is a 20-acre wood treatment facility which was proposed for addition to the National Priorities List in 1985 and formally included in 1989. Under the terms of an Administrative Order on Consent, Mass Merchandisers, Inc., collected and analyzed water samples in the surrounding area. Although a 1987 sample detected 2.3 parts per million of pentachlorophenol (PCP) in Cricket Spring, no PCP was detected in any other spring or well. Additional samples from area springs and wells were collected in 1988 and indicated that the drinking water has not been affected by the site.

Phase I of the remedial investigation (RI) indicates that the contamination is limited to the top two feet of soil onsite. Phase I also indicated that Cricket Spring is the only spring which is contaminated. Phase II of the RI began in late October, and will conclude in late March 1990.

The projected completion date for the remedial investigation/feasibility study is early 1990 and the public will be invited to comment. Documents relating to the site are available at the Omaha Public School Library. Comments or questions regarding the site or the documents should be addressed to Brent Truskowski at 214-655-6582. Citizens interested in obtaining a technical assistance grant can call Shannon Doss at 214-655-2240.

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CECIL LINDSEY DUMP in Newport, Jackson County: This unpermitted dump site reportedly received both industrial and municipal waste from the mid-1960's to 1980. The remedy chosen in 1986 consisted of removing the drums found at the site and ground water monitoring.

The Notice of Deletion for the Cecil Lindsey site was published in the Federal Register on September 22, 1989.

FRIT INDUSTRIES in Walnut Ridge, Lawrence County: This active fertilizer plant covers about 30 acres. The remedial action at the site was performed by the owners under an Administrative Order on Consent and consisted of the construction of a surface water runoff treatment plant, an environmental study of adjacent Coon Creek, and ground water monitoring. Frit submitted the final reports and EPA is evaluating the data to determine if they have successfully mitigated the contamination and whether the site can be deleted from the National Priorities List.

Questions regarding this site should be addressed to Doug Fassett at 214-655-6583.

GURLEY PITS near Edmondson, Crittenden County: This 3-acre site was used for disposal of sludges from the refining of waste oil in the 1970s. In 1986, a remedy for the sludges was selected and consists of an onsite vault, stabilization of solids, and treatment of contaminated water. The design of the remedy was completed in September 1988; however, EPA cannot proceed with implementing the remedy until the State provides its 10 percent share of the costs.

Ground water studies indicated that contamination from the pits has not migrated offsite because the clay under the site acts as a natural barrier. EPA decided that no further action was needed for the ground water portion because actions planned for the pits will further reduce any potential for ground water contamination. The ground water will be monitored a minimum of 30 years to ensure that the source control remedy has, in fact, contained all of the hazardous materials.

Documents pertaining to the site are available to the public for review at the Edmondson City Hall. Questions regarding the site can be answered by Bert Griswold at 214-655-6710. Citizens interested in obtaining a technical assistance grant should call Shannon Doss at 214-655-2240.

INDUSTRIAL WASTE CONTROL near Fort Smith, Sebastian County: This 8-acre site is an abandoned industrial and solid waste landfill (originally a surface and underground coal mine) used to dispose of sludges and liquid wastes. EPA completed a study of the site

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and selected a containment/stabilization remedy in June 1988. The Consent Decree requires the potentially responsible parties to conduct and pay for the remedial action, with EPA oversight. The remedial action began in October 1989. Questions can be answered by Doug Fassett at 214-655-6583. Documents related to the site are available for public review at the Sebastian County Courthouses in both Fort Smith and Greenwood.

Citizens interested in obtaining a technical assistance grant should contact Shannon Doss at 214-655-2240.

JACKSONVILLE LANDFILL in Lonoke County: This municipal landfill covers about 40 acres. The City of Jacksonville bought the site in 1960 and operated it until 1973. In addition to municipal waste, the landfill reportedly accepted drums of industrial and chemical wastes. The site was added to the National Priorities List in 1987.

EPA's study to determine the extent and nature of contamination began in September 1988. Results of the soil and water sampling indicated that the contamination was found only in the drums and soil onsite. TCDD concentrations range from 5-200 parts per billion in drum samples with contaminated soil volumes estimated at 3,000 cubic yards.

The remedial investigation/feasibility study should be available for public review and comment in late summer 1990. Site-related documents are available for review at the Jacksonville Public Library and City Hall. Questions can be answered by Steve Veale at 214-655-6715.

The citizens' grant previously awarded to the Jacksonville People With Pride Cleanup Coalition was annulled and is being appealed. An announcement regarding the availability of grant funds is expected in early 1990.

MAGNOLIA CITY LANDFILL near Magnolia, Columbia County: This municipal landfill is located about two miles south of Magnolia. During its years of operation, over 56,000 gallons of solvents and other organic chemicals were burned and the residue buried at the landfill; also 40,000 gallons were buried. About 31,000 cubic yards of aluminum hydroxide sludge containing small amounts of phenolic glue and nickel was also deposited in the landfill.

Tests conducted in 1987-88 indicated that benzene, trans-1,2-dichloroethylene, and trichloroethylene are present in on-site monitoring wells. Lead and nickel were found in on-site soil samples.

The site was proposed for addition to the National Priorities List in October 1989 and public comments regarding the site are encouraged.

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MID-SOUTH WOOD PRODUCTS near Mena, Polk County: The remedy selected in 1986 consists of consolidation, stabilization, capping, and ground water recovery and treatment system. The potentially responsible parties completed the construction activities and the ground water treatment and recovery will continue for several years. A copy of the Interim Closeout Report, as well as other site-related documents, is available for review at the Polk County Library. Questions should be addressed to Doug Fassett at 214-655-6583.

MONROE AUTO EQUIPMENT COMPANY PIT in Paragould, Greene County: The 4-acre site on Finch Road began receiving electroplating sludges in 1973. During the next five years the company buried approximately 15,400 cubic yards of sludge containing iron, nickel, chromium, and zinc. The sludges also contained trichloroethylene and 1,1,1-trichloroethane used as degreasers during the electroplating process.

On-site monitoring wells and a private drinking water well 300 feet southeast of the site are contaminated with 1,1-dichloroethane and 1,2-dichloroethylene, according to tests conducted in 1987-88 by the Arkansas Department of Health and a Monroe Auto consultant. Also, arsenic, nickel, and lead are present in the monitoring wells.

The site was proposed for addition to the National Priorities List in October 1989 and public comments regarding the site are encouraged.

OLD MIDLAND PRODUCTS near Ola, Yell County: This 38-acre wood-treating facility which operated from 1969 to 1979, is now bankrupt and abandoned. It was added to the National Priorities List in 1984. EPA and State studies found creosote compounds and pentachlorophenol in soils and sludges associated with the waste ponds on the site.

Incineration of the contaminated soils, sludges, and sediments and pumping/treating of the ground water were the remedies selected by EPA. The designs are scheduled for completion in early 1990 and were discussed with the public at a meeting on October 17, 1989.

Documents relating to the site are available at the Ola City Hall. Questions can be answered by Gary Martin (ADPC&E) at 501-562-7444 or Steve Veale at 214-655-6715 (EPA). Citizens interested in obtaining a technical assistance grant should contact Shannon Doss at 214-655-2240.

ROGERS ROAD LANDFILL near Jacksonville, Pulaski County: This closed municipal landfill covers about 10 acres. Purchased by the City of Jacksonville in 1953, the site was in operation until 1974. In addition to municipal waste, the landfill reportedly accepted industrial and chemical waste. The site was added to the National

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Priorities List in 1987. On-site work began in September 1988 and the analyses of the first round of sampling indicated that contamination was limited to the drums and soil on site. TCDD concentrations range from non-detectable to 14.5 parts per billion with contaminated soil volumes estimated at 5,000 cubic yards.

The remedial investigation/feasibility study should be available for public review and comment in late summer 1990. Site-related documents are available for review at the Jacksonville Public Library and City Hall. Questions can be answered by Steve Veale at 214-655-6715.

The citizens' grant previously awarded to the Jacksonville People With Pride Cleanup Coalition was annulled and that decision appealed. An announcement regarding the availability of grant funds is expected in early 1990.

VERTAC, INC. in Jacksonville, Pulaski County: This closed herbicide manufacturing plant covers about 90 acres and is the site of about 30,000 drums of herbicide production wastes, some of which contain TCDD or 2,3,7,8 tetracholordibenzo-p-dioxin. The plant owners installed a slurry wall/french drain system around the former disposal areas, repaired existing clay caps, and closed out a cooling water pond. This onsite remedy was completed in 1985.

On July 11, 1989, the Arkansas Department of Pollution Control and Ecology announced that a contract had been signed with MRK Incineration of Zachary, Louisiana, to incinerate the drums at the site. EPA's proposed support includes air monitoring, drum handling, and ash disposal. Questions can be answered by Mike Bates (ADPC&E) at 501-562-7444 or John Wicklund (EPA) at 214-655-6582.

Soil samples collected in the residential area adjacent to Rocky Branch Creek determined that several yards and a wooded area were contaminated above the action level of 1 part per billion of TCDD as a result of previous flooding. Contamination in the residential area was removed and stored on the Vertac property awaiting final disposal. The wooded area has been fenced. Questions can be answered by Ragan Broyles at 214-655-2270.

EPA's off-site remedial investigation/feasibility study activities should be completed soon and the public will be invited to review and comment on any proposed action. Questions can be answered by M. S. Ramesh at 214-655-6582.

The on-site remedial investigation/feasibility study has begun. This study will determine the extent of the contamination in the plant and drum storage areas and assess the remedial alternatives. It is scheduled for completion in 1992. Questions regarding this portion of the site can be answered by M. S. Ramesh at 214-655-6582.

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Documents relating to the Vertac site are available for review at the Jacksonville Public Library and City Hall.

The citizens' grant previously awarded to the Jacksonville People With Pride Cleanup Coalition was annulled and that decision is being appealed. An announcement regarding the availability of grant funds is expected in early 1990.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Questions from the media should be directed to Roger Meacham, EPA Region 6 Press Officer, at 214-655-2200.

A guide to EPA hotlines, clearinghouses, libraries, and dockets is available from the Office of Public Affairs at 202-382-2080. Please refer to publication number OPA 007-89.

For more information about Superfund sites or activities outside our Region, contact EPA's toll-free number 1-800-424-9346. The number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-553-7672.

The EPA publication "CERCLA: Getting into the Act - Contracting and Subcontracting Opportunities in the Current Superfund Program" lists current Superfund contracts and provides contact points, addresses, and telephone numbers for firms with Superfund contracts. Where appropriate, direct contracting and subcontracting opportunities are identified. To obtain a free copy of the brochure call 202-382-2080 or 202-557-7777. Please refer to EPA publication number 540/G-89-003a.

Activities are currently being planned to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Earth Day, Sunday, April 22, 1990. Activity contact in Region 6 is Phil Charles (214-655-2200) and in Washington, D.C. is Ann Boren (202-475-7751).

If you need additional information or have questions regarding the Superfund program in Arkansas, please call or write to:

Ellen Greeney
Community Relations Coordinator
U.S. EPA (6H-MC)
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75202
(214) 655-2240

Pathways of Contamination

There are several ways that hazardous waste sites may cause contamination problems in the surrounding community. The most common pathways are air, surface water, and ground water.

